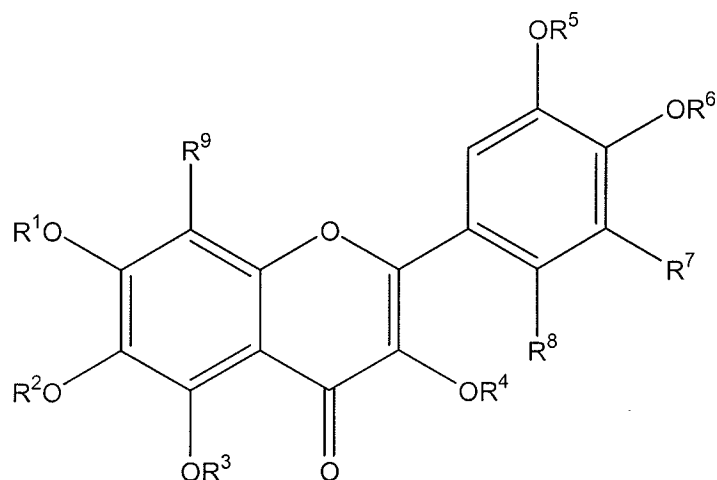


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An external preparation for skin, comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (1) and/or salt thereof in a range of 0.035 to 2.0% by mass



General Formula (I)

wherein, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R⁷, R⁸, and R⁹ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkyloxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and 4-n-butyl resorcinol and/or a salt thereof in a range of 0.05 to 5% by mass.

2. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) is one or two or more selected from 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 5,7-dihydroxy-3,6,8-trimethoxy-2-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, 3,5-diethoxy-6,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-ethoxy-4-methoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one, and 5,6-dihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(5-hydroxy-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran-4-one.

3. (Previously presented) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1, wherein a source of the compound represented by the general formula (1) and/or salt thereof is an extract of a plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae or the genus *Centaurea* sp. of the family Compositae.

Application No.: 10/580,882
Filing Date: May 26, 2006

4. (Original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 3, wherein the plant of the genus *Achillea* sp. of the family Compositae is selected from *Achillea ageratum*, *Achillea cartilaginea*, *Achillea clavenae*, *Achillea filipendula*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Achillea nana*, *Achillea ptarmica*, and *Achillea tomentosa*, and the plant of the genus *Centaurea* sp. of the family Compositae is *Centaurea cyanus*.

5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A method for whitening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is whitened.

11. (New) A method for lightening skin comprising applying the external preparation for skin according to claim 1 to the skin of an individual, whereby the skin of the individual is lightened.